

## REMARKS

Claims 6 and 7 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 6 and 7 are independent.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The allowance of Claims 6 and 7 is gratefully acknowledged.

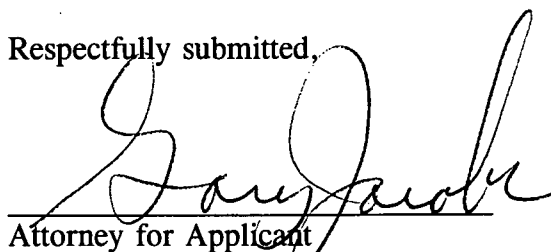
Claims 1-3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the patent to Takahashi, et al..

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Claims 1-3 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Since the remaining claims are allowed, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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